declared to be of national importance in Bihar is attached. [*See* Appendix CXLV, Annexure No. 9]. The ancient and historical monuments which are more than 100 years old at the time of their consideration for protection and which are found to be of national importance in view of their outstanding archaeological, historical and architectural value are declared protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, while in respect of remaining the respective State Governments are concerned.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Besides looking after their day to day maintenance and upkeep structural repairs, chemical preservation are carried out from time to time according to their individual requirements.

Railway Lines in Bihar

254. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the length of railway lines per 100 sq. kilometres in Bihar is less in comparison to that in other States;

(b) if so, what action is being taken to improve the situation;

(c) what are the nams of districts in Bihar where railway services are not available; and

(d) by when Central Government are making efforts to extend railway services in these districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir. It is more in comparison to the national average.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Nil.

(d) Does not arise.

Conference of Kendriya Vidyalaya Principals

255. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a two day conference of Kendriya Vidyalaya Principals on primary education was held on 15th and 16th January, 1988 at New Delhi; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the recommendations made by the Conference and what is Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan organised a conference of Principals of Kendriya Vidyalayas in Bhopal, Jammu, Hyderabad and Delhi Regions on 15th and 16th January, 1988.

(b) The recommendations made by the Conference are:

(1) Only three subjects should be taught at the primary classes in Kendriya Vidyalayas:

(i) Hindi

(ii) English

(iii) Arithmatic

Teaching of environmental studies should be merged with the languages.

(2) No home-work need be assigned to the children in classes I and II.

(3) Arithmatic exercises may be done in the school under the supervision of the teachers.

(4) Children should be encouraged to borrow books from Library and read at home. The books may be both informative and interesting.

(5) A committee may be constituted to screen and analyse the existing text-books and recommend measures for making them more meaningful and less burdensome.

(6) The Sangathan should enter into a meaningful dialogue with teachers, educationists, parents and journalists in this regard.

The Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangthan follows the syllabi and the text books prepared/prescribed by the National Council for Educational Research and Training and the Central Board of Secondary Education. As such Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan would take further action on recommendations of the Conference in consultation with the National Council for Educational Research and Training and the Central Board of Secondary Education.

Upgrading of Bhopal Airport

256. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have recently decided to upgrade some of the airports into international airports;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government have also received any proposal from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for the upgradation of Bhopal airport;

(d) if so, what action Government have taken thereon; and by when the work on this project is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Government would consider bringing international flights to Bhopal.

Constraints in Nhava Sheva Port

257. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Nhava Sheva Port is facing serious financial difficulties and time over runs and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) what are the latest details of the various facilities being created at Nhava Sheva?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) The present revised cost of the project has been estimated as Rs. 795.74 crores as against the sanctioned cost of Rs. 506 crores. The cost over-run has been mainly on account of foreign exchange fluctuation, additional statutory levies and price escalation since the sanctioning of the original estimate. Adequate arrangements exist for the funding of this project. The time over-run now anticipated is about four months.

(b) The project envisages construction of three Container Berths, two bulk Cargo Berths and one Service Berth with a capacity to handle 3 million tonnes of containerised cargo and 2.90 million tonnes of bulk material mainly fertilisers and fertilizer raw material.

Extension of Long Distance Train in Gujarat

258. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation recently from Saurashtra pleading for extension of long distance trains like (1) Navjeevan Express (2) Howrah Express (3) Trivandrum Express (4) Sabarmati Express (5) Sarvodaya Express and also other trains;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what is the reaction of Government thereto; and